

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 TRSE-00 USIA-15 OES-05 HEW-06 CU-04

XMB-04 COME-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-02

SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 OPIC-06 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /103 W

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R 210929Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0536

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 TUNIS 6237

PASS: USIA IBS/IPS

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: USTSJC, TS

SUBJ: US-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION: SIGNATURE OF DOCUMENTS

US-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION CLOSED OCT 20 WITH SIGNING
IN AFTERNOON BY ASST SECY ATHERTON FOR US DELEGATION AND
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFIARS MONGI KOOLI FOR
TUNISIAN SIDE OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE AND AGREED MINUTES.
SIGNED ORIGINAL OF ENGLISH VERSION OF MINUTES AND AUTHENTI-
CATED COPY OF FRENCH TEXT OF MINUTES BEING POUCHED. TEXT OF
JOINT COMMUNIQUE AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: 1. FOLLOWING THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE UNITED
STATES-TUNISIA JOINT COMMISSION WHICH WAS HELD IN WASHINGTON
ON MAY 2, 1975, THE SECOND SESSION OF THE COMMISSION WAS
HELD IN TUNIS FROM OCT 17 TO 20. IT WAS CHAIRED BY MR.
MONGI KOOLI, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ON THE
PART OF TUNISIA AND BY MR. ALFRED L. ATHERTON, ASSISTANT
SECRETARY FOR THE NEAR EAST AND SOUTH ASIA OF THE DEPART-
MENT OF STATE, ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES.

2. THE TWO DELEGATIONS CARRIED OUT AN OVERALL REVIEW OF
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THE PRESENT STATE OF BILATERAL COOPERATION IN THE ECONOMIC,

FINANCIAL, TECHNICAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL AREAS AND EXPRESSED THEIR GRATIFICATION THAT ALL ASPECTS OF THIS COOPERATION CONTINUE TO DEVELOP IN THE SPIRIT OF UNDERSTANDING AND FRIENDSHIP WHICH HAS ALWAYS CHARACTERIZED THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

3. THE TUNISIAN DELEGATION NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THE QUALITY AND VOLUME OF THE AMERICAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE TUNISIAN DEVELOPMENT EFFORT, ALL THE MORE SO THAT THIS CONTRIBUTION AFFECTS THE KEY SECTORS OF THE ECONOMIC GROWTH OF TUNISIA.

4. THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION FOR ITS PART PAID TRIBUTE TO THE SERIOUSNESS AND THE DYNAMISM OF TUNISIA AS WELL AS TO THE PROGRESS TUNISIA HAS ACHIEVED IN IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS GENERALLY.

5. BOTH DELEGATIONS ALSO STUDIED MEANS BY WHICH AMERICAN AID COULD BE STRENGTHENED AND ADAPTED TO TUNISIAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE EVOLUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION, THE DOMESTIC ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT PRESENTLY ATTAINED BY TUNISIA.

6. TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE OBJECTIVES OF THE FORTHCOMING TUNISIAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN, BOTH PARTIES AGREED, ON THE ONE HAND, TO GIVE PRIORITY ATTENTION TO INTEGRATED PROGRAMS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THEIR COOPERATION AND, ON THE OTHER HAND, TO ESTABLISH A TUNISO-AMERICAN TECHNICAL COMMITTEE TO STUDY POSSIBLE COMMON ACTIONS IN THE GOVERNORATE OF SILIANA.

7. BOTH DELEGATIONS ALSO TOOK UP MATTERS DEALING WITH FAMILY PLANNING, HEALTH AND NUTRITION POLICIES AS WELL AS THE PROJECT TO BUILD A TEACHING HOSPITAL IN MONASTIR. THE US DELEGATION NOTED THE READINESS OF PROJECT HOPE TO PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL STAFF SERVICES TO THE HOSPITAL'S TEACHING PROGRAM OVER A TEN-YEAR PERIOD.

8. BOTH PARTIES AGREED TO RESTRUCTURE AND REORIENT TECHNICAL

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ASSISTANCE TOWARD FIELDS AS YET UNTOUCHED, SUCH AS WOMEN'S VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. THE TWO SIDES ALSO WELCOMED THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO TUNISIA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL PROGRESS MADE BY US PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS AND THE PEACE CORPS AS WELL AS THOSE RESULTING FROM US-SPONSORED COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROJECTS.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 TRSE-00 USIA-15 OES-05 HEW-06 CU-04

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PASS: USIA IBS/IPS

9. WITH RESPECT TO TRADE, THE TUNISIAN DELEGATION EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN EXIMBANK CREDITS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF DRAWING ON SUCH CREDITS AND THOSE FROM OTHER SOURCES TO FINANCE CERTAIN PROJECTS. THE TWO DELEGATIONS REVIEWED PROSPECTS FOR TRADE AND AGREED TO THE CREATION OF A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE PROBLEMS CONCERNING ITS EXPANSION IN BOTH DIRECTIONS AND TO FACILITATE COMMERCIAL CONTACTS.

10. THE US DELEGATION ANNOUNCED THAT TUNISIA WOULD BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROVISIONS OF THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES, WHICH WOULD FACILITATE THE SALE OF CERTAIN TUNISIAN PRODUCTS, INCLUDING OLIVE OIL.

11. THE TUNISIAN DELEGATION RECALLED THE FACILITIES GRANTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF TUNISIA TO FOREIGN PRIVATE INVESTORS, PARTICULARLY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE LAWS OF APRIL 1972 AND AUGUST 1974, AND THE GENERALLY FAVORABLE CONDITIONS FOR FOREIGN INVESTORS IN TUNISIA.

12. THE US DELEGATION FOR ITS PART INDICATED THE READINESS OF AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN TO PARTICIPATE IN DIFFERENT SECTORS OF THE TUNISIAN ECONOMY IN RECOGNITION OF THE PROPITIOUS

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INVESTMENT CLIMATE. FINANCING AND INVESTMENT GUARANTEES
FOR SUCH PROJECTS ARE AVAILABLE FROM EXIMBANK AND OPIC.

13. BOTH DELEGATIONS AGREED TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF
ESTABLISHING A UNITED STATES-TUNISIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY AT A LATER DATE, AND NOTED WITH SATISFACTION
THE COOPERATION THAT EXISTS BETWEEN API AND OPIC.

14. THE US DELEGATION EXPRESSED ITS WILLINGNESS TO INCREASE
SUBSTANTIALLY THE US EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES
PROGRAM WITH TUNISIA IN THE NEXT YEAR AND WELCOMED THE
DECISION BY TUNISIA TO EXHIBIT A COLLECTION OF ANTIQUE
MOSAICS IN THE UNITED STATES DURING THE AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL.

15. IN ADDITION, THEY EXPRESSED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN
TRIANGULAR INVESTMENT PROJECTS, AND AGREED TO CONTINUE
NEGOTIATIONS OF A TAX TREATY BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES
WHICH WILL SOON BE STUDIED AT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL.

16. THE WORK OF THIS JOINT COMMISSION WAS CARRIED OUT IN AN
ATMOSPHERE MARKED BY SINCERE FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUAL UNDER-
STANDING.

17. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE JOINT COMMISSION WOULD MEET
AGAIN IN WASHINGTON IN THE FALL OF 1976.

18. DONE IN TUNIS, OCTOBER 20, 1975. UNQUOTE.

19. HIGHLIGHTS OF JOINT COMMISSION SESSION AND COMMENTS
FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL.
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